10/719.179

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed December 7, 2007, claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-22 and 24 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shanthaveeraiah in view of Yao and claims 5, 19 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected based claims but otherwise allowable.

In the present Response, independent claims 1, 15 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the allowable claims and their respective base claims, which have been cancelled. Independent claim 7 has been amended in a corresponding manner. Some of the claims have also been amended to provide a consistent use of terms between the claims and the Specification.

The references made of record but not relied upon have been reviewed but are considered to be only of background interest.

For the foregoing reasons, the claims are believed to be allowable, the Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a favorable Office Action is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if a conversation would expedite prosecution of this case.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time. No fee is believed to be due in this instance. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any deficiency of fees submitted herewith, or the credit of any overpayment, to deposit account number 09-0449.

Respectfully Submitted,

/Dan Shifrin/

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cc: IBM- Tucson